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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 138  
By Henry

A RESOLUTION To honor the memory of Mrs. Mary Jane  
Werthan.

WHEREAS, It was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly learned of the death of Mrs. Mary Jane Werthan of Nashville, one of Tennessee's most distinguished citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Werthan was a founder of the Family and Children's Service; she sat on the organization's first Board of Directors and served as chairperson of the family division; and

WHEREAS, Known for her enthusiasm, intelligence and thoughtfulness, Mary Jane Werthan was elected president of Family and Children's Service in 1954 and again in 1955, and was elected to the Board of the Family Service Association of America in 1955; and

WHEREAS, A woman who was wholly devoted to assisting Tennessee's families and children, Mary Werthan served Family and Children's Service with probity as a Board member and volunteer for the better part of three decades; and

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WHEREAS, In 1987, she helped to raise funds for the construction of a new building at the present 23rd Avenue North location; seven years later, the newly constructed building was dedicated as the Mary Jane Werthan Building of Family & Children's Service in honor of this inimitable woman's 40 remarkable years of astute service; and

WHEREAS, Mary Jane Werthan was highly admired and respected by her fellow Nashvillians as a community leader of uncommon dedication and ability; she served on the Nashville Symphony Board and the Public Television Council, in addition to being a valuable member of the Friends of Cheekwood and the Tennessee Botanical Gardens and Fine Arts Center; and

WHEREAS, She also contributed her time and innumerable talents to her beloved alma mater, Vanderbilt University, as the first woman member of the Board of Trust and also served in numerous other capacities on various university boards; her legacy to the university will live on through the Mary Jane Werthan Professorship in Judaic and Biblical Studies at the Vanderbilt Divinity School, as well as an achievement award given annually in her name by the Women's Center; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Werthan evinced her devout religious faith as a member of the congregation at Temple Ohabai Shalom; she served as the Nashville president of the National Council of Jewish Women and on the board of the Jewish Community Center; and

WHEREAS, Preceded in death by a daughter, May Shayne, Mary Jane Werthan will be dearly missed by her surviving family members, including her daughter, Elizabeth Werthan of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; her five grandchildren, Jonathan Shayne of Nashville, Tennessee, Elizabeth Shayne of Burlington, Vermont, David Shayne of Los Angeles, California, Sarah Bittenwieser of Northampton, Massachusetts, Julie Bittenwieser of Manhattan Beach, California; and her seven great-grandchildren, David and Clifton Shayne of Nashville, Tennessee, William Shayne of Burlington, Vermont, Ezekiel and Lucien Baskin of Northampton, Massachusetts, and Claire Elizabeth and Daphne Paige Suh of Manhattan Beach, California; and

WHEREAS, The singular legacy of devotion to family and community that Mary Jane Werthan leaves behind will be long remembered and treasured by her friends and associates; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby pause to honor the memory of Mrs. Mary Jane Werthan, recalling fondly her life of purpose and commitment and her many valuable contributions to the Nashville community and to Tennessee, even as we mourn her death.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend our sympathy and condolences to Mrs. Werthan's family and many friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.